



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
FIRE ENGINEERING DIVISION**

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**CALIFORNIA STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
FIRE ALARM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Date: May 14, 2014

Location: Office of the State Fire Marshal

Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**COMMITTEE GOAL**

To advise the State Fire Marshal on proposed regulations and technical issues by providing views and comments from members of the industry, the public, and the fire services.

**STAFF PRESENT**

James Parsegian, Supervising DSFM, Chair  
DeeDee Garcia, Assistant Program Coordinator

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gary Dunger, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development  
Walter Brandes, Riverside County Fire Department  
Rick Cortina, Pyro-Comm Systems, Inc.  
Wendy Gifford, Consultant  
Bill Hopple, Hopple & Co.  
Rick Lewis, Sabah International  
Richard Roberts, Honeywell Life Safety  
Ken Quick, Culver City Fire Department  
Patrick Ward, AON Fire Protection Engineering  
Howard Hopper, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ray Iverson, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Department  
John Mapes, Foster City Fire Department  
Shane Clary, Bay Alarm Company  
Tom Connaughton, Intertek – ETL  
Ronald Farr, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.  
Jay Levy, Hochiki America  
Michael Reeser, Santa Rosa Fire Equipment Services

## **GUESTS PRESENT**

Daniel Grosch, Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

## **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson James Parsegian at 10:04 AM on May 14, 2014.

## **ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

DeeDee Garcia conducted a roll call and it was determined that we had a quorum.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Committee members reviewed the minutes of February 5, 2014. Bill Hopple made a motion to approve the minutes and Richard Roberts seconded the motion. James Parsegian called for a vote and the minutes were approved unanimously as written.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Regulations package for the new smoke alarms listing requirements was sent to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) one week ago. The final Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) was completed and OAL has 30 days to approve or reject the package then it will become effective.

Information Bulletin 14-004 is posted on the web and with updated information to include all of the exceptions. There were no comments from the committee.

The Information Bulletin dated September 8, 2008; "Fire Alarm Control Unit Replacement in Existing Buildings" was the next topic of discussion. There has been confusion regarding exactly what needs to be done when there is a tenant improvement per Fire Alarm code requirements. Some feel that if you do any tenant improvement work to a building you have to bring the control panel up to code and that there are significant items in the 2013 edition of the Building Code that differ from the Information Bulletin. James asked Rick Lewis to gather some documents together so it can be discussed further at the next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

James Parsegian indicated that there are some staffing updates at the CAL FIRE – Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Fire Engineering/Arson and Bomb Division. The new Division Chief will be starting within the next 60 days and the new BML Coordinator will be starting within the next 60 days or so.

The next topic brought up by James was regarding some concerns with Potter Electric Signal Co. Model VSR-AT waterflow valve. The concern is about how this product is tested, how this relates to NFPA 25 and NFPA 72, along with Factory Mutual (FM) and Underwriter Laboratory Inc. (UL) approval. Daniel Grosch from UL joined the conversation for additional support. There were many questions brought up which James Parsegian suggested that we will discuss at the next meeting.

The next item of new business discussed was about fire alarm data throttling. The concern is the possibility of losing “troubles” when there are too many being sent and being throttled down, having a runaway situation or in the event of a natural disaster such as an earthquake. There is a question about who or what is making the decision to put the calls through or stagger them? We need to consider the legal circumstances of central stations vs. fire alarm control panels. Input was well received and James will look into this issue further.

### **OPEN FORUM**

Howard Hopper of UL brought up Section 18.4.5.3 of NFPA 72. Clarification is needed regarding 520+/- Hz low frequency sounders and alarms. Daniel Grosch of UL got on the conference call to answer some questions. Does the California State Fire Marshal's office want to make a new BML category for the low frequency products? What is the best way to handle this for consumers and the Authorities Having Jurisdictions? James suggested that we make a specific note on the listings so they can be easily identified on the listing website rather than create a new category.

Wendy Gifford discussed Nest Labs and the previous concern with the Hush feature and how it is being addressed. She also mentioned that the basic functions still work and it is still code compliant and there was also a software push in the field. Nest Labs is currently testing the additional features in questions to ensure functionality so they can put them back on the market. James stated that the Office of the State Fire Marshal will issue an Information Bulletin regarding the Nest product and its current functions.

Pat Ward asked for clarification regarding the discussion of Class A circuits and wiring at the last committee meeting. There was a discussion in the group regarding this issue and the code. James will talk to Chief Kevin Reinertson and send out an email to the committee.

Ken Quick brought up a point that some businesses are using Voice-Over-Internet Protocol (VOIP) and how some of the companies using them do not have battery backup. There was discussion about this and how it relates to NFPA 72, protective premise and the minimum backup required.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2014 from 10:00 am to noon (Pacific Standard Time) at the Office of the State Fire Marshal, 1131 S Street, Sacramento, California. A conference line and GoTo Meeting will be available.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned by Chair James Parsegian at 12:02 PM.

DRAFT